

REMARKS

Following Applicants' Election of December 30, 2005, claims 1-24 were pending and claims 25-39 were withdrawn. Applicants have cancelled claims 25-39 herein as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled herein. Claims 40-42 have been newly added. Claims 1, 3-24 and 40-42 are now pending in the present application.

Applicants thank Examiner for the allowance of claims 14-24 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6 and 8-10.

Claims 1, 7 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,138 to Mitani, et al. ("Mitani").

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 2, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 is thus allowable over Mitani.

Claims 7 and 11-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, now amended, and hence are allowable by virtue of their respective dependence on claim 1 as well as for their respective further defining recitations.

Claims 40-42 have been newly added. Claim 40 is the original claim 4 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 4 was indicated as allowable, claim 40 is allowable.

Claims 41 and 42 depend from claim 40. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 41 and 42 are allowable for their dependence from claim 40, and for their further defining limitations.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the address below. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, in the event that there are any fees due, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,



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